

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (INCORRECT ACTION OFFICE ON ORIGINAL)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY US

SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON'S CHARGES REPEATED BY LIBYAN PRESS

1. WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING FOR SOME LIBYAN REACTION TO CHARGES IN JACK ANDERSON COLUMN OF NOV 8 REPORTING LOOSE TALK ABOUT U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LIBYA, AND ALLEGED "DISCUSSION BETWEEN A CIA AGENT AND AN OCCIDENTAL ABOUT PUTTING UP 50 MILLION DOLLARS FOR QADHAFI'S ASSASSINATION". QADHAFI SEEMED TO ALLUDE TO MATTER IN SPEECH NOV 9 (TRIPOLI 1223), BUT PRESS DID NOT REFER TO COLUMN.

2. NOW, ARTICLE IN LIBYAN DAILY AL-BALAGH OF NOV 14 REVIVES CHARGES, AND LINKS THEM TO AN ARTICLE CRITICAL OF QADHAFI IN EGYPTIAN PRESS. UNDER TITLE "U.S. CIA INCITED SOME OF ITS AGENTS TO ATTACK COLONEL QADHAFI", AL-BALAGH SUGGESTS DARKLY THAT APPEARANCE AT SAME TIME OF ANTI-QADHAFI ARTICLE IN EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE AL-MUSAWWAR AND ANDERSON COLUMN IS NO COINCIDENCE, AND CONCLUDES: "THE POLITICAL EDITOR OF LIBYAN BROADCASTING NETWORK STATES THAT, AT A TIME WHEN THINGS HAVE BEGUN TO RETURN TO NORMAL BETWEEN

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THE SONS OF A SINGLE PEOPLE IN BOTH COUNTRIES (LIBYA AND

EGYPT), AND AT A TIME WHEN A DISCERNIBLE RAPPROCHEMENT IS APPEARING IN RELATIONS BETWEEN POLITICAL LEADERSHIPS OF THE TWO SISTERLY COUNTRIES, AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HAS BEGUN TO INCITE AND PROD ITS AGENTS IN EGYPT LIKE SALAH JUDAT (AUTHOR OF AL MUSAWWAR ARTICLE) TO PREPARED OPINION FOR ANY AGGRESSIVE ACTION WHICH AMERICA MAY LAUNCH AGAINST THE LIBYAN ARAB PEOPLE, AND TO STRIKE AT ANY RAPPROCHEMENT WHICH MAY COME ABOUT BETWEEN THE TWO POLITICAL LEADERSHIPS OF THE TWO SISTERLY COUNTRIES".

3. UNFORTUNATELY, SOMETHING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LOST IN TRANSLATION OF ANDERSON COLUMN AVAILABLE TO LIBYANS. INSTEAD OF "AN OCCIDENTAL" ALLEGED TO HAVE DISCUSSED ASSASSINATION OF WADHAFI WITH CIA, AL-BALAGH ARTICLE SPEAKS OF "AN OFFICIAL OF OCCIDENTAL (PETROLEUM) COMPANY".

4. WE HAVE TO ASSUME ANDERSON COLUMN HAS BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY HERE. IT WOULD CONFIRM LIBYAN SUSPICIONS OF US. PROPOSE TO SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR SHAYBANI TO MAKE DEMARCHE IN LOW KEY ON MATTER. WOULD DRAW HIS ATTENTION TO PROMPT DISMISSAL OF ANDERSON COLUMN BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMEN, AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT DESPITE AL-BALAGH ARTICLE NO ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO COLUMN BY RESPONSIBLE LIBYAN OFFICIALS. PROPOSE ALSO TO SAY THAT ANY SUGGESTION U.S. OPPOSES GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA IS GROUNDLESS.

5. RECOGNIZE THAT THIS ACTION MAY TO SOME EXTENT DIGNIFY IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES MADE IN ANDERSON COLUMN AND BY AL-BALAGH. OUR UNHAPPY CHOICE IS BETWEEN MAKING DEMARCHE OR DOING NOTHING, AND OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES DEMARCHE IS PREFERABLE IF WE WANT TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION OF U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS. IT MAY WELL DO NO GOOD, BUT AT LEAST WE WILL HAVE TRIED. STEIN

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